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Second Committee

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Sekiguchi** (Japan) said that the Second Committee was expected to play a crucial role in promoting and accelerating the implementation of a series of landmark agreements adopted in 2015, from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Discussions in the Committee should therefore be comprehensively aligned with those instruments in order to enhance the implementation efforts of Member States.

2. Following the regrettable failure of collective efforts to revitalize the work of the Second Committee earlier in 2016, three principles should guide the discussions at the current session: not reopening any agreements from 2015, completing the Committee's work within the mutually agreed deadlines, and excluding any programme budget implications that were not necessary, urgent or based on a clear mandate.

3. His country had three priorities for the upcoming deliberations. First, discussions on sustainable development should be well aligned with prior international agreements; Japan thus supported the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement and was accelerating its ratification process. Second, Japan stood ready to adopt and implement the New Urban Agenda as an action-oriented guideline for sustainable urbanization. Third, Japan was committed to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction as an integral part of sustainable development in all areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. His Government was also committed to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework and was willing to engage in a full-scale debate with all partners and stakeholders, including through the establishment and dissemination of World Tsunami Awareness Day.

4. Japan was similarly committed to the sustainable development of countries in special situations, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa; it would thus continue to contribute to the full implementation of relevant strategies and programmes.

5. A paradigm shift had occurred with regard to sustainable development. It was therefore imperative for the United Nations Development Group to adjust accordingly, taking appropriate measures to function in a more effective and efficient manner. From that standpoint, discussions regarding the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should devise a reform plan with a broader perspective.

6. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that, following the historic milestones achieved in 2015, the international community must now work on its collective vision to guide efforts aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality, introducing and promoting sustainable models of production and consumption, protecting natural resources and their rational use, promoting sustainable economic growth and social integration, and creating dignified work opportunities for all during the following 15 years.

7. The path towards sustainable development would not be smooth; additional efforts should therefore be aimed at making the global environment conducive for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through effective regional cooperation. Political will should moreover be reinforced by adequate means of implementation, which would require the mobilization of additional financial resources, including the main component for financing development, official development assistance (ODA). International trade and investment, the main engines of productive growth, must be revitalized, while the transfer of innovative and ecologically sound technologies must be encouraged.

8. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda required a clear and transparent mechanism for its follow-up and review process. The international community must assist countries in special situations, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, which were otherwise starting implementation of the new development agenda under less favourable conditions.

9. Along with more than 50 other Member States, his country had collaborated within the Group of Friends of Water to promote water-related issues, develop a new global water agenda and raise awareness about that vital and limited resource. In August 2016, his country had hosted a high-level symposium on the theme "Sustainable Development Goal 6 and targets:

ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation". The symposium had offered a platform for a focused and balanced discussion on policy measures, actions and means of implementation to accelerate implementation of Goal 6 and related targets. At the current session, his country would also put forward for consideration a draft resolution entitled International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028".

10. As climate change was a complex challenge that undermined international efforts for sustainable development, it would require a coordinated response that included both short- and long-term measures. It was essential to strengthen existing financial instruments and to create effective mechanisms for technology transfer and capacity development in developing countries, with a view to fostering adaptation to climate change.

11. **Ms. Quiel Murcia** (Panama) said that the international community must implement a universal agenda that focused on poverty eradication from a human rights perspective and facilitated socioeconomic growth while maintaining environmental awareness in both rural and urban areas. Nevertheless, the primary objective of the Second Committee should be to elaborate a road map for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

12. The growing impact of climate change spared no community or nation; a significant number of Latin American and Caribbean countries had therefore committed to depositing their instruments of ratification of the Paris Agreement. Recognizing the important role played by tropical forests in combatting greenhouse gases, her country had made a number of national commitments to increase new and renewable sources of energy and to promote soil recovery and reforestation. It had also launched an international centre to ensure the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Panama hoped to become a regional carbon hub with a carbon market to help combat deforestation and promote sustainable forestry management and international emissions trading.

13. As 60 per cent of the world's population would live in urban areas by 2030, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) was a crucial opportunity to elaborate a new model of urban development that integrated all the dimensions of sustainable development and promoted equity, well-being and shared prosperity.

14. The new quadrennial comprehensive policy review must ensure that the United Nations development system was endowed with the appropriate means of implementation to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The policy review should guide the necessary changes to be made, emphasizing the strengths of the system and overcoming its obstacles. One of the development system's continued challenges was assisting middle-income countries with sustainable development, in particular through the eradication of poverty and inequality, which particularly affected women, children and youth, indigenous peoples and people of African descent. Member States must therefore share their progress and best practices with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For its part, Panama would participate in the voluntary national review in 2017.

15. The challenge of financing the new development agenda was both individual and collective. Financial transparency and global governance must be the critical foundations of any attempt to end poverty and inequality. Current iniquitous economic practices were not the purview of a single country, but rather a consequence of a global system that hurt the most vulnerable populations. Her country was committed to strengthening transparency and combating corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing. It also believed in fostering ethics for development and in promoting global governance.

16. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Mexico) said that the United Nations development system must adapt to the 2030 Agenda and modify its approach accordingly. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an opportunity to provide the development system with the necessary tools for the implementation and follow-up of that Agenda.

17. A new people-centred paradigm for sustainable peace had been developed, which focused primarily on sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and inequality, and access to justice and institutions as the most effective means of preventing conflict and improving lives. That long-term vision of sustainable

peace highlighted the need to give young people more and better economic opportunities, and also to promote equality and women's empowerment. Sustainable peace was inclusive and benefited societies as a whole. It fostered prosperity, helped to build functioning institutions that respected human rights, encouraged development and strengthened the rule of law. Sustainable peace and security required civil society to play an active role, alongside international organizations and local governments.

18. Following his country's initiative, the Group of Friends on Sustaining Peace had been established and now included 30 Member States working to encourage a cross-cutting paradigm shift within the United Nations system.

19. The multidimensional and cross-cutting focus on financing for development initially outlined in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development must continue to be used to identify different means and sources of resources, both financial and non-financial, in order to advance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. An environment that encouraged sustainable development must be created by integrating all development actors so as to foster effective cooperation and strengthen the means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. Home to a large part of the global poor, middle-income countries continued to face important obstacles to development. The criteria currently used to evaluate graduation from middle-income status, and thus ODA eligibility, did not adequately reflect the complex reality of development.

21. Countries must adopt development strategies that favoured economic growth in tandem with social well-being, environmental conservation and respect for the three pillars of sustainable development. Mexico supported efforts to achieve sustainable development in small island developing States, in particular through the promotion of national capacity-building for the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the use of clean technologies. As a megadiverse country, Mexico was committed to conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity; it would therefore host the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity in December 2016.

22. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that Habitat III would be an opportunity to address new ways of dealing with the challenges of urbanization, while making cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It was estimated that 70 per cent of the world's population would live in urban areas by 2050. The outcome document of Habitat III should help cities to cope with rapid increases in population and to ensure that the urban poor were not left behind.

23. Landlocked developing countries faced challenges such as high transport costs, dependence on a single or limited number of export commodities, remoteness and isolation from world markets. It was therefore imperative to address their concerns and fully implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. However, the efforts of those countries would not be sufficient; greater international support was needed from all stakeholders, including transit partners. Trade was essential to help such countries achieve development goals, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) continued to play a critical role in integrating them in global trade. In particular, a specific work programme should be established to address the concerns and needs of landlocked developing countries with a view to increasing their participation in the multilateral trading system.

24. Climate change continued to impact all sectors of his country's economy, limiting agricultural production and increasing food insecurity, droughts and water stress. Botswana had therefore welcomed the historic adoption of the Paris Agreement, which it would ratify as soon as the internal processes were completed.

25. **Ms. Oh** Youngju (Republic of Korea) said that in implementing the historical milestones agreed in 2015, the United Nations must adopt an inclusive multilateral approach to support concrete actions. In the context of creating a more efficient and integrated United Nations system, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would provide vital strategic guidance to the development system. The latest review should provide a clear and concise vision for the development system to deliver as one, with concrete proposals for strengthened collaboration at the entity and system-wide levels, as well as better linkages between development, peace and security, and humanitarian activities. Reform of the United Nations development

system should be based on an evaluation of the accomplishments, gaps and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goal era and should be carried out in an orderly and incremental manner. In particular, reforms should focus on enabling the practical delivery of results on the ground.

26. It was crucial to establish an effective and efficient follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. As a previous member of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, her country was ready to share its experiences and lessons learned in that regard. Quality data and national statistical capacity-building were also important for the follow-up and review process.

27. With a view to ratifying the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016, the Republic of Korea would set up a national plan on climate change to meet its 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target. It would also expand its collaboration with the Green Climate Fund to support the efforts of developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate adaption.

28. Most cities were experiencing deepening inequalities, deteriorating living conditions for the most vulnerable, excessive energy use, pollution and increasing climate change-related disasters. Habitat III should therefore work towards ensuring equitable, sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities through the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

29. In order to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level, implementation strategies, policy efforts and lessons of international cooperation must be shared in the Second Committee. Her country had the following priorities with regard to the implementation of the Goals: supporting marginalized and vulnerable populations; furthering the development of science, technology and innovation cooperation; capacity-building; promoting peaceful and inclusive societies based on good governance; and combating inequality both within and among countries. The Republic of Korea had launched several development cooperation initiatives and participated in numerous global partnerships to facilitate the implementation of the Goals.

30. **Mr. Olguín Cigarroa** (Chile) said that since the majority of Member States were or would soon become middle-income countries, it was necessary to strengthen the support provided to them by the United Nations system, given that they faced special challenges in developing public policies. Per capita income should not be the only criterion used to measure middle-income status.

31. The Paris Agreement had highlighted the importance of both mitigation and adaptation with regard to climate change and provided the tools to strengthen peace and eradicate poverty and inequality with the sustainability framework. The flexibility and hard work demonstrated by those who had helped to develop the New Urban Agenda, a well-balanced and consensual text, was welcome. Similarly, the appointment of the new Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation was a clear sign of the importance of South-South cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, the establishment of a special office of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to the United Nations was a step in the right direction for global economic governance. That would enhance communication and send a powerful signal to other institutions regarding the need to develop greater linkages with the United Nations.

32. **Mr. Shilla** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plans and strategies; in fact, the Goals were part of the solution to many of the country's most urgent problems. They must be seen as having a bearing on other major world issues, such as migration and counter-terrorism, in order to remain the focus of political leaders and the global public.

33. The first high-level political forum on sustainable development had demonstrated that it could be a credible, trusted and constructive platform for countries to share their experiences, successes and challenges. However, it was important to provide strong incentives for countries to continue reporting on their progress. The follow-up and review process must help to build ownership of the 2030 Agenda, thus creating a virtuous cycle of implementation and review, including cross-country sharing of lessons and experiences. Ownership must be developed at all levels: globally, regionally, nationally, subnationally and among citizen groups.

34. Given the threat posed by climate change to development efforts, his country had prepared national adaptation plans and programmes. It also hoped that The Green Climate Fund and other partners would help to support national adaptation efforts, which were estimated at about $500 million annually, a sizeable feat for developing countries such as Tanzania. Early entry into force of the Paris Agreement was also vital.

35. It was crucial to combat land degradation and drought, which affected poorer communities and African countries the most and contributed to worsening forced migration flows and resource scarcity.

36. More intensive efforts were needed to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international financial system and to decisively tackle challenges facing the global economy. Furthermore, long-term financing would be essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including international private financial flows towards developing countries such as foreign direct investment (FDI).

37. In order for the least developed countries to become globally competitive in the evolving knowledge economy, it was necessary to address their science, technology and innovation challenges. The establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was therefore welcome. Moreover, access to that facility should be maintained for a period of at least five years after the date of graduation, as an abrupt cut in assistance could cause new graduates to fall back.

38. **Mr. Eleyatt** (Mauritania) said that one year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was a good time to take stock of challenges and consider ways of avoiding a repeat of past disappointments. Creating an environment conducive to inclusive economic growth required the optimal use of resources and an international system based on partnership and mutual respect.

39. His country had instituted an inclusive national programme with a specific timetable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty and youth unemployment had been reduced, and individual income had increased. As a result of the Government's policy of positive discrimination, women had become leaders in political and social life and were active in sectors that had previously been the exclusive province of men. The recently established National Solidarity Agency was providing education and health services for marginalized groups across the country, as well as making funding available for income-generating projects. Mauritania had also carried out fundamental reforms to make its judicial system more independent and accessible, promote good governance, increase transparency and root out corruption. The Government had opened the door to wider participation by political parties, trade unions and civil society organizations.

40. Around the world, conflict and civil war had increased the threat of terrorism. His Government had gone beyond a one-dimensional military response and employed a variety of economic, social and cultural approaches to combating radicalism and extremism. Mauritania and several of its neighbours in the Sahel had established development programmes to respond to people's needs and aspirations before they turned to terrorist violence. He hoped that the international community appreciated the importance of such efforts in what was one of the world's poorest and most fragile regions, and expressed appreciation for regional and international support for the Sahel region, including the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

41. Climate change posed particular challenges to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. His country had launched policies to limit desertification and sand dune advance, and he urged all parties to fulfil their pledges made in that respect in the context of the Paris Agreement. He also urged Habitat III participants to ensure that the New Urban Agenda would strike a balance between the aspirations of urban and rural areas.

42. **Mr. Al Hayani** (Iraq) said that the market economy remained the prevailing model for promoting optimal resource use, wealth generation and technological innovation. However, an unregulated market economy could lead to resource depletion, environmental pollution and disruptive economic crises. Inclusive economic growth should take into account the need for sustainable use of natural resources. His country was instituting structural reforms and macroeconomic policies to bolster public revenues while allowing the private sector to push forward economic and social development despite the steep decline in oil prices.

43. WTO needed to ensure equal trade opportunities for developing countries by easing membership conditions for countries with observer status. A genuine partnership between developed and developing States was essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, small- and medium-sized companies needed financing and technology transfer to help them gain access to global markets. Developed countries should honour their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. ODA was especially important for infrastructure reconstruction in countries decimated by war and terrorism.

44. His Government was working on a new development plan for the 2018-2022 period, even in the face of the challenges posed by the decline in oil prices, unprecedented displacement and the war that Iraq was fighting on behalf of the entire world against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Expressing gratitude to friendly States for the assistance they had provided to address the challenges created by the millions of Iraqi refugees who had been displaced from their homes and livelihoods, he said that the United Nations should continue to play a major role in helping Iraq confront its humanitarian crises, and also in eliminating gaps in the international system that were being exploited to finance terrorism.

45. **Mr. Peña** (Paraguay) said that the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty, was the greatest challenge facing the international community and was essential for sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda should be implemented consistently and synergistically with other international agendas, programmes and instruments, such as the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. His country was committed to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to addressing the issue of financing and the creation of a conducive environment for sustainable development at all levels.

46. The Global Infrastructure Forum was essential and brought together multilateral banks and other development partners to enhance global infrastructure. Similarly, the implementation of the Sendai Framework was important in disaster-prone developing countries, especially countries in special situations, with an emphasis on landlocked developing countries, which required special assistance because of their greater vulnerability. Habitat III would also be key to strengthening the global political commitment to the sustainable development of peoples, cities and other human settlements.

47. The Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 should be made more coherent and synergistic with other international agendas, as well as the Paris Agreement. States Members of the United Nations should increase their support for landlocked developing countries in the work of the Second Committee as part of a revitalized global alliance striving to leave no one behind.

48. ODA was key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Investment in infrastructure, connectivity and capacity-building was essential. International trade was the engine of economic growth and development, poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development. States Members of the United Nations should therefore follow his country's example and immediately ratify trade facilitation agreements within the WTO framework.

49. Paraguay had a national development plan focused on poverty reduction, social development, inclusive economic growth, equal opportunities and environmental sustainability. It had also established an inter-institutional coordination committee to implement, follow up on and monitor international commitments under the 2030 Agenda. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be in line with the 2030 Agenda and devote particular attention to countries in special situations, especially landlocked developing countries. During the current session of the General Assembly, the Second Committee would face major challenges in its quest to leave no one behind.

50. **Ms. Shekriladze** (Georgia) said that discussions on how to make the work of the Committee more efficient should continue. The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement had all been major achievements, and her delegation was looking forward to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda under Habitat III. During the high-level political forum held in July 2016, her country, along with other participants, had presented its

first voluntary national review. In conjunction with Estonia, the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Development Programme, Georgia had organized a special high-level event on open governance and reform of public administration, on the margins of the current session of the General Assembly. Other events aimed at sharing good practices would be organized during the year. The upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be crucial for the United Nations development system.

51. In the face of a considerable financing gap, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be dependent on innovative financing alternatives to supplement domestic flows, FDI and ODA. Her country was an active participant in the global partnership to develop innovative financing. For example, the Solidarity Fund of Georgia, in conjunction with the United Nations Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, had hosted the International Forum on Solidarity and Innovative Financing in Tbilisi in December 2015. The recommendations emerging from that meeting had been presented at a high-level event organized by Georgia and France on the margins of the current session of the General Assembly.

52. **Ms. Moldoisaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) reiterated her country's support for the 2030 Agenda and said that Kyrgyzstan had already created a committee to implement and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, with plans for further review by both the parliament and the President's Council on Sustainable Development. The inclusion in the Goals of the needs of mountainous landlocked countries such as Kyrgyzstan was welcome.

53. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries would also be critical, as would a greater role for multilateral trade and aid for trade, services and market access. The membership of Kyrgyzstan in the Eurasian Economic Commission provided access to a market of 180 million people; however, despite plans for new regional north-south transport systems, regional tariffs and non-tariff barriers continued to hamper trade and had given rise to unilateral border closures.

54. With regard to the environment, Kyrgyzstan had signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and would move towards ratification in the near future. Her country had already experienced natural disasters and climate-related degradation of its unique mountain ecosystem, with negative social consequences and tangible annual economic damage estimated at $35 million. Forecasts suggested a potential 30 to 40 per cent reduction in her country's total glacial surface by 2025, which would reduce water flow. That prediction had led it to call for joint measures to preserve glaciers in upstream countries.

55. Endangered species had also been affected. The snow leopard population had been particularly hard hit, and Kyrgyzstan was preparing, in 2017, to host the second global forum to reassess the situation and adopt specific measures to protect that animal from extinction.

56. Finally, she urged the global community to address the large number of uranium storage sites in her region, a problem that demanded sustained attention and follow-up to General Assembly resolution 68/218, entitled "The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia".

57. **Mr. Simpson** (Australia) said that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda were significant in their integrated approach and commitment to innovative financing and partnership models. The Committee needed to change the way it operated in order to remain relevant. His delegation looked forward to a constructive session with consensus outcomes achieved within set time frames. He stressed that early warning should be provided on resolutions with possible budgetary implications, and he urged delegates to adhere to deadlines, negotiate in good faith and avoid wasting time on already-agreed issues. In particular, the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would require functional and efficient negotiating space.

58. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) reiterated his new Government's support for the 2030 Agenda, as expressed recently by the President of Peru at the annual general debate of the General Assembly. Human dignity remained the core value of the Organization's efforts. In that context, development signified inclusion, whose full attainment required democratic governance as well as respect for human rights and the

rule of law, along with recognition and protection of cultural diversity.

59. During the Committee's current session his country would be focused on implementation of the global strategy for disaster reduction, since it was particularly vulnerable in that regard. While Peru had recently made great strides in economic growth and poverty reduction, its susceptibility to natural disasters and the impact of climate change could threaten its progress.

60. His delegation would therefore devote particular attention to the sustainable development of mountainous regions. Over the previous 15 years, Peru had reduced poverty levels from one half to one quarter of its population. However, mountain dwellers continued to experience high poverty rates and middle-income countries such as Peru lacked the means to address the pressing challenges. International cooperation would be necessary to meet the needs of the most vulnerable first.

61. In consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Peru would continue to promote an international day of gastronomy, in order to showcase the catalytic role of culture for sustainable development. Furthermore, it would develop links across the Sustainable Development Goals related, inter alia, to eradicating hunger, promoting food security and sustainable agriculture, achieving healthy lifestyles and fostering sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

62. Finally, his country would actively support innovative initiatives to achieve universal access to water and water purification. The President of Peru had recently joined the High-level Panel on Water, for example, and Peru supported the creation of a new International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, which would contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

63. **Mr. Bultrikov** (Kazakhstan) said that taken together, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework signalled a paradigm shift in the approach to development that demanded moral and ethical engagement. Delegates needed to place themselves in the shoes of the most marginalized and vulnerable. Full participation by women and youth would be the key to success. Primary responsibility for implementation lay with national Governments. His country already had experiences to share in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals under its Kazakhstan 2050 strategy and its national plan for transition to a green economy. It was important to identify those sectors of the population that were difficult to reach. Triggers for conflict and tension also needed to be addressed, and Member States should therefore divert 1 per cent of their military budgets to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

64. Central Asian countries needed international support to tackle environmental challenges. Kazakhstan was working with the World Bank to restore the northern portion of the Aral Sea and with the United Nations to rehabilitate the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

65. Small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries needed extra support from the international community, and he urged implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. His country had worked with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on a project for the installation of biogas systems in several Pacific small island developing States.

66. In April 2016, Kazakhstan had hosted the inaugural session of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, which had been established by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the initiative of Kazakhstan.

67. Kazakhstan had already commenced its transition to a low-carbon economy. It supported carbon pricing and would ratify the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016. It planned to host EXPO-2017 in Astana on the future of energy.

68. **Mr. Abuobeida** (Sudan) said that his country had established a high-level national mechanism to implement the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on poverty eradication. Developing countries faced unique challenges that could only be met with the help of global partnerships, South-South cooperation and

triangular cooperation. The international community should implement debt-cancellation initiatives and create an anti-shock mechanism to cushion the impact of global fluctuations. Special consideration needed to be given to countries in post-conflict situations, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Economic sanctions and coercive measures against certain developing States should be eliminated. For his country, external foreign debt constituted a major stumbling block to deriving full benefit from ODA and other forms of assistance, even though the Sudan qualified for aid under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

69. For developing countries, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require the mobilization of additional resources, as well as capacity-building, technology transfer and access to global markets. Obstacles to WTO membership must be removed so that developing countries could exploit trade as an engine of development. In recent years, South-South cooperation had proven an effective tool for building capacities in the areas of health, education, the environment, trade and investment. However, South-South cooperation should not be a substitute for North-South and triangular cooperation.

70. **Mr. Jo** Tong Hyon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that in order to successfully implement the Sustainable Development Goals, each Member State's individual right to development should be respected. The international environment for development was being severely undermined as a result of coercive economic measures such as sanctions, blockades and pressure, imposed by a few specific countries against others.

71. The 2030 Agenda called for the full respect of territorial integrity, permanent sovereignty over resources and economic activities, and the prohibition of unilateral actions violating the Charter of the United Nations. Arbitrary and hostile political, military and economic pressures and threats by illegal authorities must end. A new international order of finance, trade and economy should be established. The new order, in which each country would implement the Goals in accordance with its own specific conditions and capacities, would better reflect current realities wherein the monopolistic positions of a few countries in international financial organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and WTO, could no longer be tolerated. The representation of the developing countries, including the emerging economies, should be ensured.

72. The developed countries, which had pledged financial and technical support, should fulfil those commitments without delay, and more attention should be given to the sustainable development of the least developed countries, the landlocked and small island developing States, and all States and peoples under foreign occupation or in conflict. Under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was vigorously building socialist economic power and prioritizing science and technology on the basis of its own efforts, technologies and resources. The country's five-year strategy for national economic development for 2016-2020 aimed to revitalize economic sectors, including energy, agriculture, land and environmental administration, in order to lay a foundation for sustainable economic growth.

73. His country faced serious threats in the form of the prospect of nuclear war as well as economic sanctions and blockades sustained by the United States of America. Even so, the people of his country would continue to uphold the principle of self-development, and his Government would strive to replace the existing order with a new and justified international economic order, and contribute to international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

74. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that his country's national development strategy reflected its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. In particular, the Sustainable Development Vision recently adopted by Mongolia's parliament envisaged the eradication of poverty by 2030, and contained measures to reduce income inequality, improve citizens' quality of life and ensure ecological balance and green development.

75. Landlocked developing countries, whose meagre share of global trade consisted primarily of commodity exports, were among the hardest hit by economic fluctuations, shortages and climate change. In Mongolia in particular, climate-related desertification

and soil erosion were being exacerbated by herding and farming practices, and water shortages constituted a threat not only to agriculture but also to the vital mining sector.

76. With respect to the Paris Agreement, Mongolia had recently deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretariat. Furthermore, as a country experiencing rapid urbanization, Mongolia looked forward to a successful Habitat III in Quito and wished to stress that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should take into account the special needs of landlocked developing countries.

77. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, said that in July 2016 his country had presented its zero poverty plan for 2019 as part of its overall national development plan for 2013-2019. He reiterated his nation's commitment to reducing its levels of exclusion and continuing to seek greater equality for its people, in line with the 2030 Agenda. The priority was to give greater power to the people by continuing to dismantle the mechanisms and categories of capitalism, an unjust system that engendered poverty.

78. Multilateral trade, without protectionism and based on special and differential treatment that guaranteed free access to markets, was essential to ensure sustained growth in global commerce and equal opportunity for developing nations. The PetroCaribe programme, through which his country supplied 40 per cent of the energy needs of the 18 signatory nations of the Declaration of the fifth Extraordinary Summit of PetroCaribe, held in Maracaibo, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 13 July 2008, was a good example of such trade.

79. Based on the need for a new economic system that would promote development on the basis of peace, justice, complementarity and solidarity, his country would continue to lobby for reform of the international financial architecture, which remained extremely unfair with respect to the poorest nations. It was important to work for the democratization of the decision-making mechanisms of those financial entities in order to ensure greater participation by developing countries in them.

80. The sovereign management of natural resources was a crucial element in achieving fair economic development. It was not acceptable for large transnational companies to define the fate of the world by appropriating resources to the detriment not only of those most in need but also of the environment. Equally unacceptable were unilateral measures that contravened international law and the Charter of the United Nations by impeding economic and social progress, especially that of developing nations.

81. As a member of the Security Council, his country had witnessed first-hand the horror of war and the effects of conflict, in particular in the Middle East and Africa. He wondered how countries such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen could advance in the face of interference by outside actors and how the Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip could achieve sustainable development without an end to colonialism and domination. The United Nations should work beyond institutional boundaries to address complex problems without undermining sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and with respect for the existence of different models of development.

82. **Mr. Erciyes** (Turkey) said that by presenting its voluntary national review as part of the high-level political forum in July, Turkey had demonstrated its commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, by holding the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Antalya from 27 to 29 May 2016, his country had advanced the breakthroughs of both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, leading to a political declaration that would provide a road map for the least developed countries and their development partners by 2020.

83. Reaffirming his nation's commitment to operationalizing the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries by the end of 2016, he recalled that Turkey was a reliable donor country whose assistance to least developed countries had exceeded $1.5 billion over the previous five years.

84. Humanitarian assistance was also a major commitment for his country, which was now home to three million refugees, the largest such population in the world. Turkey had spent more than $12 billion in assistance to Syrian refugees, while receiving only $512 million. Although properly managed migration

could contribute to sustainable development, progress could be made only through shared sustainable strategies. In that regard, his country welcomed the recent New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

85. The Paris Agreement was a milestone whose ultimate success depended on adequate financial support and technology transfer. He particularly stressed the importance of the goals on sanitation and water, including water governance, as critical for peace and stability, along with the need for inclusivity and transparency in the discussion of a new global water architecture.

86. **Mr. Wu** Haitao (China) said that the current session of the General Assembly and the Second Committee should focus on several aspects under the theme "The Sustainable Development Goals: A universal push to transform our world".

87. First, a clear direction and priorities should be set to advance economic, social and environmental development. Countries should be encouraged to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into their national development strategies according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as their specific conditions and stages of development. Eliminating poverty and hunger should be the top priority. Countries should actively implement strategies geared towards innovation-driven development, boosts in economic growth, advances in industrialization, and improvements in social security and services. Everyone should be able to participate in development and share its benefits.

88. Second, the international community should resolve to cooperate in a mutually beneficial manner and optimize global development partnerships. Since North-South cooperation continued to be the main channel for development cooperation, developed countries should honour their ODA commitments and increase support to developing countries, especially African countries, least developed countries and small island developing States, and help them to enhance their capacities. For their part, developing countries should stand together, assist one another, and deepen South-South cooperation. Stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society should also be encouraged to advance the cause of international development.

89. Third, the international community should improve global economic governance and create an international environment enabling development. On the basis of the principles of equality, openness, cooperation and communal benefit, the international community should establish global governance arrangements that were equitable and effective for finance, open and transparent for trade and investment, green and low-carbon for energy, and inclusive and interconnected for development. An open world economy should be fostered, support should be lent to developing countries for their equal participation in global economic governance, and their representation and voices should be amplified. Furthermore, developing countries should be assisted in their integration into global production and value chains, and benefit fully from them. The United Nations should also be supported in its central role in coordinating and implementing the 2030 Agenda.

90. Fourth, awareness of the community of shared future should be fostered, and development challenges should be tackled together. Countries should strengthen communication and coordination in macroeconomic policy so as to avoid a negative spillover effect. All parties should uphold the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, innovate and strengthen actions to address climate change, and advocate for the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement. His delegation looked forward to the action-oriented New Urban Agenda of Habitat III, which would revitalize international cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development.

91. Since China had reformed and opened up, its economy had continued to grow rapidly and was now the second largest in the world. Faced with the complexities of a weak world economic recovery, China had taken measures to adapt to a "new normal" of economic development. China, which would continue to expand its reforms, to upgrade its economic structures and to add new drivers of economic and social development, was committed to its own development while providing more opportunities for the world.

92. China was seamlessly integrating the 2030 Agenda into its medium- and long-term development plans, such as the thirteenth Five-Year Plan, and the Government had approved and issued the National Plan

for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

93. China had made earnest efforts to implement a series of important initiatives announced by President Xi Jinping at the summits commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. Those included deepening South-South cooperation and providing as much support and assistance as possible to developing countries. The China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and the Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation would be in operation by the end of 2016. The Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development had welcomed its first class of students, and there had been steady progress in the implementation of cooperative projects with developing countries in the areas of poverty reduction, agriculture and trade facilitation.

94. At the high-level segment of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, Premier Li Keqiang had engaged in thematic discussions with the heads of relevant international organizations regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and had announced that the total annual contribution of China to the relevant United Nations development institutions would be $100 million more than its 2015 contribution.

95. China had also held the presidency of the Group of 20 in 2016. The Hangzhou Summit, held under the auspices of the Group of 20, had made innovation a core outcome for the first time and prioritized development in the global macro-policy framework. The Summit had also promoted collective action in support of industrialization in African and least developed countries, and had resulted in a series of important action plans and other outcome documents.

96. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that, given the need to align the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the key documents adopted in 2015, in particular the Paris Agreement, it would be crucial to develop a new long-term strategy concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle.

97. Following consultations at the ministerial and other levels, including with civil society, Morocco had joined other countries at the high-level political forum in July 2016 to present its plan for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into its vision for the future, based on national priorities. Those Goals had been established within the socioeconomic framework of the new national Constitution, his country's programme of advanced regionalization and the social and institutional reforms already underway since 2000.

98. Morocco had adopted a National Charter on the Environment and Sustainable Development with a view to strengthening the relevant institutional and legal frameworks, promoting sustainable modes of production and consumption and developing renewable energy sources. Such reforms, combined with national investment in renewable energy, had led to Morocco being ranked within the top 10 countries worldwide according to the Climate Change Performance Index.

99. With respect to South-South cooperation, Morocco would continue to work on regional and subregional integration. It was important, however, for the international community to reframe its cooperation to favour Africa and countries with low and middle incomes by providing targeted assistance that would increase the participation of such countries in global governance, which should not remain the province of a narrow group of decision-makers.

100. Climate change was a major obstacle to the pursuit of sustainable development by developing countries. Holding the presidency of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakesh from 7 to 18 November 2016, Morocco would focus on developing an action plan that would place developing countries at the heart of efforts to implement the Paris Agreement. Building on the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture, African leaders at a summit held in Marrakesh on 29 and 30 September, had already issued a declaration supporting the efforts of African nations to stem the negative effects of climate change on agriculture.

101. **Ms. Khaing** (Myanmar) said that, in the light of the 2030 Agenda and other landmark agreements such as the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, Myanmar had designed its national economic and development policy with a view to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, with poverty alleviation as an overarching objective. Her country would be focusing on enhancing connectivity, promoting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, fostering a sustainable environment, agricultural

development and food security, and improving health and education.

102. Building nationwide peace and security through initiatives such as the ongoing Panglong Peace Conference and combating the HIV pandemic and antimicrobial resistance, both major health threats that could undermine development, were also top priorities for Myanmar.

103. Given the structural challenges that faced developing countries, which entailed low growth and vulnerabilities caused by climate change, disease outbreaks, conflicts and poor resilience, ODA would remain critical to the ability of such countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, she stressed the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review that would take place during the current session. The review should strengthen the United Nations development system and ultimately lead developing countries to deliver the Goals effectively and thus narrow the development divide among Member States.

104. **Mr. Mendoza-García** (Costa Rica) said that the current session coincided with the first anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which represented a milestone in international diplomatic negotiations and would define the work of the Second Committee until 2030. The critical remaining task was now implementation, which would require enhanced international cooperation to ensure that developing countries would be able to achieve sustainable development. Poverty eradication was the primary goal and efforts should therefore be focused on areas with populations in poverty, regardless of their geographical location. All sectors and actors should be mobilized through a process that would demand absolute transparency and accountability from all concerned stakeholders, especially those that could undermine the integrity of the Organization.

105. The 2030 Agenda could not progress without taking into account the needs of all Member States, including middle-income countries, which comprised the majority within the Organization but were also home to the greatest number of people living in poverty. In that regard, Costa Rica welcomed the one-day meeting hosted in May 2016 by the Economic and Social Council within the framework of its dialogue on the long-term positioning of the United Nations development system. The meeting had highlighted many of the reasons why the 2030 Agenda would benefit from strengthened cooperation among middle-income countries.

106. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review represented an important framework for establishing progress benchmarks that transcended income criteria and it provided a mechanism for strategic cooperation with middle-income countries. At the same time, development challenges related to infrastructure, sovereign debt, trade, financing for development, energy and strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation must be addressed to ensure that no country would be left behind.

107. The Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica had ratified the Paris Agreement and the work of the Second Committee should henceforth be geared towards harnessing the enormous political will that had made that historic agreement possible.

108. Sustainable development had become a universally acknowledged concept that would serve as the basis for future agreements. Striking an appropriate balance among its three dimensions — social, economic and environmental — would play a crucial part in defining national development strategies and the mechanisms for international cooperation that would ensure their success.

109. There was no time for complacency, however. Governments needed to take action to prevent a global temperature rise of more than 1.5 degrees. Otherwise, the international community would have to live with the consequences, including more natural disasters and migrant crises. That was not an option.

110. **Mr. Daunivalu** (Fiji) said that his country looked forward to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which would be critical to ensure adequate resources for implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, especially in the light of its complementary role to the 2030 Agenda. Partnerships were essential for addressing the development challenges facing the world today.

111. With respect to climate change, he reiterated the call recently made at the annual general debate of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General and world leaders, including the Prime Minister of Fiji, for countries that had yet to ratify the Paris Agreement to

do so at the earliest opportunity. Fiji had first-hand knowledge of the adverse impact of climate change and urged the Committee to focus its deliberations on ways to create durable solutions that would tackle its multidimensional threats.

112. **Mr. Andambi** (Kenya), welcoming the timely discussions under way within the Second Committee, said that Kenya had already mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development priorities and plans and looked forward to presenting its voluntary report on implementation shortly. Implementation, specifically under Goal 17, which covered the mobilization of domestic resources, was critical to achieving all the Goals. Kenya was prepared to underwrite more than 90 per cent of its recurrent commitment.

113. ODA was also crucial as a complement to domestic resources. Kenya would continue to emphasize concessional borrowing, although that window had narrowed since his country had been classified as a middle-income country. Agriculture remained the country's primary source of livelihood, employing some 60 per cent of the population and accounting for one quarter of its gross domestic product.

114. However, without reliable data it was difficult to pinpoint the location of the most marginal portions of the population. There was an urgent need for quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data, which could be obtained by strengthening the country's statistical capacities and geospatial information systems. However, despite specific national initiatives such as its National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System, which had been replicated throughout the country at subnational levels, Kenya remained weak in key institutional sectors and across ministries. Improved data were vital to ensure that Kenya would be able to meet both existing and future needs.

115. His country looked forward to the next high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi from 28 November to 1 December 2016, which would be the first such meeting following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

116. Stakeholder participation was a key element in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, citizen participation was a central part of the Kenyan system of governance, as enshrined in the national Constitution, and contributed to strengthening governance and increasing accountability, inclusivity and ownership.

117. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria) said that the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda needed to take into account the most vulnerable populations in Africa and around the world, and in particular peoples deprived of access to their natural resources by colonial occupation.

118. After its success in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, Algeria had commenced implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals immediately upon their adoption. However, economic forecasts were particularly bad for commodity-exporting countries. The report on economic development in Africa published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in July 2016 had indicated that financing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa could require investments of up to $1 trillion, with much of that going to infrastructure in a continent where the cost of transportation was three times higher than in Asia. The World Bank was predicting a decline in FDI and ODA and also a rise in protectionist sentiment, all of which could undermine progress on poverty reduction.

119. When it came to innovative methods of financing, his country had had some success with issuing bonds. However, that sort of measure would not work for low-income countries, and was no substitute for ODA and regular financing provided by a reformed, democratic and inclusive global financial system.

120. International partnerships required a minimum level of solidarity among peoples. South-South cooperation had achieved some success, but would not succeed unless it was supplemented by North-South cooperation focused on capacity-building and technology transfer.

121. Lastly, developed countries needed to change their patterns of excess consumption, which imposed on developing countries an industrial system that focused exclusively on reduced costs and low prices.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.